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Mrs. Dahmer, Agent of FBI Give Testimony

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) —The murder trial of Sam H. Bowers Jr. got under way today with testimony from Mrs. Vernon Dahmer, widow of the murder victim, and an FBI agent from Jackson.

Mrs. Dahmer described the 1966 night rider attack which left her husband dead and their store and home destroyed. FBI agent James Awe identified various photographs and sketches he made of the attack scene.

Bowers, 44, of Laurel was charged with murder in connection with the attack.

The state and the defense agreed last night on a panel of 12 jurors. An alternate was to be selected today.

Bowers, identified by the FBI as a former imperial wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and 12 others originally were charged with arson in the case.

Bowers won a mistrial on the arson charge and was reindicted in November on a murder charge. There have been three convictions and three other mistrials in the case.

Roy Pitts, the state's key witness in Bowers' arson trial, testified that Bowers gave the orders to burn Dahmer's home and store, and to kill him, if possible.